(b) if not, what were the reasons for not granting approval to the said college; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the said college is meeting all the parameters for the grant of approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India after assessing the facilities, has recommended to the Government for grant of permission for establishment of Government Medical College at Theni with intake of 100 students for the academic year 2006-07. The recommendations of the Council are under consideration of the Government.

Withdrawal of user charges by AIIMS

2969. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 200 senior faculty members of AIIMS have submitted a petition to his Ministry asking for withdrawal of revised user charges;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the charges are not only against the spirit of AIIMS but also against the socio-economic reality of society;

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(e) whether new charges are also going to deprive more than 80 per cent of the patients of tertiary care at AIIMS as well as send a wrong message about the character of Government-funded hospitals; and

(f) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The faculty Association of All India Institute of Medical Sciences has made a demand for review of user charges. Accordingly an Internal Committee was set up. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration. The recent exercise for rationalization of charges in AIIMS was carried out after a period of more than 10 years to ensure free treatment to more number of people and needy patients. In this exercise, a total of 1250 cases of

charges for tests, procedures etc. have been rationalized. Charges for over 400 new tests and procedures have been introduced. In respect of another 400 tests, the charges have been increased due to increase in cost of consumables. In the case of over 380 cases, the charges have been left unaltered and in about 40 cases charges have been reduced. The poor and needy patient at AIIMS continue to get the free treatment. The patients admitted in the emergency are given free treatment irrespective their economic status. It has been reported by AIIMS there is no decline in the number of patients after the rationalization of user charges.

Code of conduct for MCI inspectors

2970. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any code of conduct has been laid down by Government and MCI for the conduct and behaviour of various inspectors who visit medical colleges on various duties;

(b) what is the criteria used to select inspectors by the MCI or Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a need to upgrade the level of such inspectors both from their know-how as ell as their understanding of dignity, etc.;

(d) what steps will be taken to obtain feedback reports from all medical colleges on how such inspectors behaved and how they could be rated professionally; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (A) to (e) Inspection of medical institutions by the Medical Council of India is the most important input for grant of permission/recognition to undergraduate/postgraduate courses. The Government is reviewing the entire process of inspection including appointment of permanent and panel of inspectors and bringing in necessary modification with a view to making it more transparent and effective.